

THE INVENTION CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of manufacturing a ferritic stainless steel sheet having good workability with less anisotropy, which comprises the steps of:

providing a ferritic stainless steel comprising C up to about 0.03 mass %, N up to about 0.03 mass %, Si up to about 2.0 mass %, Mn up to about 2.0 mass %, Ni up to about 0.6 mass %, Cr about 9-35 mass %, Nb about 0.15-0.80 mass % and the balance being Fe except inevitable impurities;

precipitation-heating said stainless steel at a temperature in a range of 700-850°C for a time period not longer than 25 hours; and

finish-annealing said stainless steel at a temperature in a range of 900-1100°C for a time period not longer than 1 minute.

2. The method of manufacturing according to claim 1, wherein the stainless steel further comprises at least one of Ti up to about 0.5 mass %, Mo up to about 3.0 mass %, Cu up to about 2.0 mass % and Al up to about 6.0 mass %.

3. A method of manufacturing a ferritic stainless steel sheet having good workability with less in-plane anisotropy, which comprises the steps of:

providing a ferritic stainless steel comprising C up to about 0.03 mass %, N up to about 0.03 mass %, Si up to about 2.0 mass %, Mn up to about 2.0 mass %, Ni up to about 0.6 mass %, Cr about 9-35 mass %, Nb about 0.15-0.80 mass % and the balance being Fe except inevitable impurities;

precipitation-heating said stainless steel at a temperature in a range of 450-750°C for a time period not longer than 20 hours; and

finish-annealing said stainless steel at a temperature in a range of 900-1100°C for a time period not longer than 1 minute.

4. The method of manufacturing according to claim 3, wherein the stainless steel further comprises at least one of Ti up to about 0.5 mass %, Mo up to about 3.0 mass %, Cu up to about 2.0 mass % and Al up to about 6.0 mass %.

5. The method of manufacturing according to claim 3, wherein fine

precipitates are distributed at a total ratio of 0.4-1.2 mass % in a steel matrix by the precipitation-heating.